

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY EXERCISE IN
NORTHEASTERN ITALY AND THE NORTHERN ADRIATIC

1. FLINTLOCK '74, A 3-PART USEUCOM JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXERCISE INVOLVING US, GERMAN, BRITISH, AND ITALIAN FORCES, IS SCHEDULED FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 28 TO OCTOBER 21, 1974. IT IS NOT A NATO EXERCISE. THE OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE IS TO EVALUATE THE READINESS OF EUCOM JOINT SPECIAL OPERATION FORCES TO EXECUTE THEATER UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE MISSIONS.

2. ONE OF THREE SUB-EXERCISE OF FLINTLOCK '74 IS ALTANEA '74, AN EXERCISE INVOLVING 260 US AND 675 ITALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO BE HELD IN NORTHEASTERN ITALY AND THE NORTHERN ADRIATIC OCTOBER 3-18. THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EXERCISE WILL BE: EAST - TAGLIAMENTO RIVER; WEST - VENICE THROUGH BAS-
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SANO DEL GRAPPA TO TRENTO; NORTH - TRENTO THROUGH CORTINA

D'AMPEZZO TO TOLMEZZO AT THE TAGLIAMENTO RIVER; SOUTH FROM TOLMEZZO TO THE SEA, REMAINING WITHIN FIVE MILES OF THE COAST WHEN REACHING THE ADRIATIC. US SPECIAL FORCES AND NAVAL INSHORE WARFARE UNITS ARE TO JOIN WITH COUNTERPART ITALIAN UNITS TO ESTABLISH COMBINED CONTROL BASES AND FORM OPERATIONAL TEAMS. SELECTED ELEMENTS WILL INFILTRATE BY AIR TO LINK UP WITH ITALIAN STAY-BEHIND ELEMENTS AND CONDUCT

GUERRILLA WARFARE OPERATIONS. OTHER ELEMENTS WILL INFILTRATE BY AIR OR WATER TO PERFORM DIRECT ACTION RECONNAISSANCE AND ATTACK MISSIONS.

3. THE ITALO-YUGOSLAV DISPUTE OVER THEIR BORDER AND THE LEGAL STATUS OF "ZONE B" IN THE TRIESTE AREA, WHILE GENERALLY QUIESCENT, REMAINS UNRESOLVED. IN RECENT WEEKS BOTH PARTIES HAVE MADE SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO KEEP THE ISSUE OUT OF PUBLIC DOMAIN. THE ITALIANS IN PARTICULAR HAVE MADE CLEAR TO US THEIR DESIRE TO REFRAIN FROM EXACERBATING THE ISSUE. US POLICY IS TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN THIS BILATERAL ISSUE AND TO GIVE NO SUPPORT TO CLAIMS BY EITHER SIDE TO TERRITORY UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE OTHER.

4. ALTANEA '74 IS A VERY SMALL-SCALE OPERATION INVOLVING A TOTAL OF LESS THAN 1,000 MEN AND ONLY 260 US PERSONNEL. FURTHERMORE, ITS GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS IS CONSIDERABLY FURTHER WEST THAN THAT OF DARK IMAGE. MOREOVER, NO PROBLEM OF SHORE LEAVE IS INVOLVED. FINALLY, THE SITUATION BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY IS RELATIVELY TRANQUIL AND BOTH PARTIES SEEM DETERMINED TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. FOR THESE REASONS, WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE ALTANEA SHOULD CAUSE ANY DIFFICULTIES. NEVERTHELESS, WE WISHED ROME AND BELGRADE TO BE AWARE OF THE PLANNED EXERCISE AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON IT.

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